Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 1. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Figure 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

The drawings were objected to in the Office Action. A replacement figure 1 is hereby attached. No new matter has been added.

Claims 7-24 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Graf. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The invention relates to avoidance of transcoding or interruption in the event of payload coding exchanges in existing connections. The invention seeks to avoid unnecessary workload during powering up and down of a transcoder into the MGW. This is accomplished when the media gateway controller instructs the media gateway by signaling to implement a verification of the connectability of terminations after receipt of a plurality of instructions to modify the coding of a termination.

In the conventional art, existing user connections are modified, for example by selecting a different coding. In this case, signaling used between the MGC and MGW is such that each termination into the MGW is modified irrespective of the other terminations connected to it within the MGW. When a termination is modified, the MGW does not know whether other connections also connected by it to the termination will also be modified later. Hence, when a termination is modified, the MGW must immediately implement measures if different codings result in connected terminations (e.g. using transcoding). However, since the signaling of the MGC to the MGW is sequential, in the event of simultaneous switching of connected terminations within an MGW, the MGW activates a transcoder, which is then almost immediately deactivated again, causing unnecessary workload on the system.

In Graf, at least two notes are adapted to insert/remove an entity (transcoder) into/from the connection. An indicator is forwarded between nodes controlling the connection such that the indicator indicates whether the connection has an entity affecting connection quality. A node which decides to insert an entity into the connection or remove it therefrom, adjusts the indicator before forwarding it to a further node controlling the connection. A node controlling the connection checks the value of the indicator when it performs a decision to insert or remove an entity. However, there is no disclosure of verifying the connectability of terminations after receipt of a plurality of instructions to modify the coding of at least one termination, as required

by the claimed invention. In this regard, the Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate where in the Graf reference this feature is disclosed or withdraw the rejection.

Since the recited method and structure are not disclosed by the applied prior art, claims 7-24 are patentable.

New claim 25 incorporates the features of claims 7 and 8 and is patentable for the same reasons presented in the arguments above, and since Graf fails to disclose no longer transmitting user data from and to a relevant termination once a modification instructions has been received, until the verification of connectability has occurred.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. An indication of the same is solicited. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing, referencing Attorney Docket No. 118990-42.

Respectfully submitted,

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